GASTROPODS FROM SOME EARLY DEVONIAN LIMESTONES OF THE WALHALLA SYNCLINORIUM, CENTRAL VICTORIA

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Abstract

Seventeen gastropods from Devonian limestones at Marble Creek (also known as Toongabbie), Deep Creek and Loyola within the Walhalla synclinorium are described. These include four new forms: Platyceras (Platyceras) mansfieldense and P. (Praenatica) sp. A. from Loyola, and P. (Platyceras) sp. A. and P. (Orthonychia) sp. A. from Marble Creek. The other described forms are all platyceratids except Tremanotus cyclocostatus and Michelia sp. from Marble Creek, Oriostoma sp. n., and an indeterminate turbiniform gastropod from Deep Creek and Scalaetrochus lindströmi from Loyola. Tropidodiscus centrifugalis and ?Temnodiscus pharetroides from the mudstones at Loyola are also redescribed. The gastropod faunas of the limestones are dominated by coprophagic platyceratid gastropods and constitute further examples of this widely known crinoid-gastropod association.

Introduction

The limestone deposits along the eastern limb of the Walhalla synclinorium each consist of a number of small lenses of limestone. The deposits extend about 120 km from Loyola in the north, about 130 km north-east of Melbourne, to Marble Creek in the south, about 140 km east of Melbourne. The limestone at Loyola was the first to be noted in print. Selwyn and Ulrich (1867, p. 35) provided a chemical analysis of a 'white limestone from near Mansfield'. The first note of fossils appears to be that of McCoy, who considered the limestone to be Palaeozoic and was quoted to this effect by Couchman (1877, p. 19). Chapman (1914) mentioned an unidentified form of gastropod and in 1916 he described two gastropods from the Loyola Limestone, Platyceras cornutum Hisinger and Orthonychia brevis Chapman. However, the latter is one of the nautiloids which are quite common at Loyola. He also described two species of gastropods from the associated mudstones, Temnodiscus pharetroides and Euomphalus centrifugalis. Since then no further work on the gastropod fauna has been undertaken.

The limestone deposit with the least known fauna is that at Deep Creek, about 6 km east of Walhalla. Together with the limestone at Marble Creek (also known as Toongabbie), it appears to have been first noted by Murray (1878, p. 48). The only mention of a gastropod from this locality is by Chapman (1916) who described *Platyceras minutum*.

Gastropods from the Toongabbie Limestone, Marble Creek, were first noted by McCoy who observed 'some traces of Gasteropoda, apparently of the genus Acroculia, too imperfect to render determination possible, and a fragment of Bellerophon' Murray (1878, p. 49). Chapman (1907) noted the presence of Niso (Vetotuba) brazieri Etheridge and Trochus (Scalaetrochus) sp. In 1916 he noted Tremanotus pritchardi Cresswell and Coelocaulus brazieri (Etheridge) and described Diaphorostoma incisum.

Talent and Philip (1956), when describing the gastropod fauna from Marble Creek, erected two new genera, *Ostlerina* and *Cowwarrella*. They also described eight new species and mentioned three poorly known forms. These two new genera were subsequently synonymized by Knight *et al.* (1960).

The lack of work both locally and internationally on Middle Palaeozoic gastropod faunas makes comparison with assemblages of similar age difficult, and has also resulted in a number of genera being used in a very wide sense. As a result of the lack of definition of generic limits, the species described here are compared with the type species as well as other species from south-eastern Australia.

In this study the following abbreviations have been used:

P, National Museum of Victoria Palaeontological Collection;

M.U.G.D., Melbourne University Geology Department;

G.S.V., Geological Survey of Victoria Collection, now housed in the National Museum of Victoria.

All measurements are in millimetres and the following symbols relating to the measurements have been used:

Hap, height of aperture; Ht, total height of shell; L, length measured at the selenizone in the bellerophontids; Lap, length of aperture; Wap, width of aperture; Wh, total number of whorls in shell; Wlt, width at last trema; Wt, total width of shell; *, specimen incomplete.

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Age of the faunas

As knowledge of Middle Palaeozoic gastropods is limited, they do not contribute significantly towards age determinations of the limestones. In this instance the situation is further aggravated by the domination of Platyceratids in each of the gastropod faunas. Most discussions about the age of the limestones at Marble Creek and Deep Creek have usually considered them to be of the same age. This is supported by the presence of the distinctive *Platyceras* (*Visitator*) cylindricum at both localities. Strusz (1972) assessed the available information from both these localities and considered them to be Late Siegenian.

The age of the Loyola Limestone has been argued for some time. Most recently Cooper (1973) noted the presence of a polygnathan conodont element in the fauna and considered the limestone to be Early Emsian. This age determination has been accepted by other workers (Strusz, 1972; Vandenberg et al., 1976).

Discussion of the ages of these limestones must be placed in the perspective of comments

by Philip (1974). He discussed the current uncertainty in correlations between the different facies of the Lower Devonian stages in Europe. Because of this present uncertainty, their application in Australia should not be dogmatic.

The gastropod evidence for age determinations at Loyola is minimal. Scalaetrochus lindströmi occurs at both Lilydale and Loyola. It is generally considered that the Lilydale Limestone is Late Siegenian (Strusz, 1972). However, the only other known occurrence of this genus is Scalaetrochus fragosus from the Middle Devonian Anderdon Limestone, Ontario, Canada (Linsley, 1968).

Within the mudstone surrounding the limestone lenses at Loyola, Straparollus (Straparollus) serpenteus Talent and Loxonema sp. nov. of Talent (1963) occur. These gastropods were originally described from the Kilgower Member, Tabberabbera by Talent (1963). This unit was considered by Strusz (1972) to be Late Siegenian-Emsian in age.

Palaeoecology

The limestone at Marble Creek is composed largely of crinoidal fragments together with a few corals and stromatoporoids. In comparison with the crinoids and coelenterates the other faunal elements comprise only a small percentage of the fauna. These minor elements include gastropods, bivalves, nautiloids, rostroconchians (notably *Conocardium*), brachiopods and trilobites. This faunal abundance and diversity is in complete contrast to that of the surrounding mudstones which are virtually unfossiliferous (Talent, 1956).

The commensal relationship between the coprophagic gastropods of the family Platy-ceratidae and crinoids has been known for a long time. Lane (1973) described in detail such a relationship from the Carboniferous of Indiana. At Marble Creek the disarticulated nature of the crinoid crowns implies some postmortem transport. Although the gastropod fauna at Marble Creek is dominated by members of the Platyceratidae, none have been found in situ on a crinoid crown.

Apart from the dominant platyceratids, the gastropod fauna from Marble Creek is limited.

Tremanotus cyclocostatus is considerably smaller than T. pritchardi from the Lilydale Limestone of comparable age. Also present are poorly preserved specimens of Michelia sp. Again considerably larger forms are known from both the Lilydale Limestone and the slightly younger limestone at Taemas, N.S.W. Chapman (1907) noted the presence at Marble Creek of Scalaetrochus sp. but this specimen has not been relocated.

The gastropod fauna of the Toongabbie Limestone is markedly different from the only other adequately known Lower Devonian gastropod fauna from Victoria, that of the Lilydale Limestone. This latter fauna from a protected shallow marine environment is dominated by large gastropods, both high-spired and planispiral (Tassell, 1976). Significantly, no coprophagic gastropods are known from this limestone. Also this limestone is not dominated by crinoidal fragments.

The limestones at Deep Creek differ in composition from those at Marble Creek in a number of ways. They are not dominated by crinoidal remains; rather, corals comprise the major biological component of the limestone. The minor components of the Marble Creek fauna are considerably more important constituents of the Deep Creek Limestone. This is so particularly of bryozoa, ostracods and brachiopods. Other minor components include trilobites, algae, rostroconchians, bivalves and gastropods.

The total fauna at Deep Creek is as diverse as the faunas from both Marble Creek and Loyola. But the gastropod fauna, dominated by platyceratids, is noticeably less diverse. In the case of the coprophagic platyceratids, this may be a reflection of the limited number, or diversity, of the crinoids. Not only is the gastropod fauna of restricted diversity, it is also composed only of small forms. The most abundant gastropod P. (P.) minutum rarely exceeds 5 mm in diameter. P. (V.) cylindricum at Deep Creek is smaller in all cases than members of that species at Marble Creek. An explanation of such apparent dwarfing is not readily apparent, particularly as none of the other faunal elements exhibits such a tendency. The limestone at Loyola consists of four distinct bodies of limcstone interbedded with the surrounding highly fossiliferous mudstones (Cooper, 1973). This limestone exhibits a great deal more variation in composition than the limestones from Deep Creek and Marble Creek. In part it is composed largely of crinoidal material only slightly disarticulated. Coelenterates dominate the limestone in other areas.

The total fauna of the limestones is diverse but the gastropod component is quite limited being represented by only a few species. However, there is no tendency at Loyola towards reduction in size; rather the platyceratids from this limestone are comparable in size to, or larger than, those from Marble Creek.

The low gastropod diversity of the limestones is in marked contrast to the gastropod fauna of the associated mudstones. Chapman (1916) described from the mudstones? Temnodiscus pharetroides and Tropidodiscus centrifugalis as well as noting Platyceras cornutum. Straparollus (Straparollus) serpenteus Talent and Loxonema sp. nov. of Talent 1963 also occur in the mudstones.

Systematic descriptions

Family BELLEROPHONTIDAE McCoy, 1851

Subfamily TROPIDODISCINAE Knight,

1956

Genus Tropidodiscus Meek and Worthen, 1866

Type Species: Tropidodiscus curvilineatus (Conrad), 1842; Lower Devonian; Schoharie, New York, U.S.A.

Tropidodiscus centrifugalis (Chapman), 1916

(Plate 7, figure 5)

1916 Euomphalus centrifugalis Chapman, pp. 89, 101, pl. 4, figs. 30-31, pl. 6, figs. 54-55.

Diagnosis: Small form of genus with foliaceous growth lines that vary slightly during growth and are moderately widely spaced.

Description: Small to medium-sized form with prominent angular dorsal crest; whorl profile gently rounded from the angular dorsal crest to the edge of the umbilici, then rounded more

strongly; umbilici moderately deep and wide; aperture not greatly expanded, sub-triangular in shape; parietal lip probably thin, with high ridge formed by dorsal angulation of preceding whorl; outer lip with a deep v-shaped sinus culminating at the dorsal angulation in a narrow slit that probably produces a narrow selenizone; shape of outer lip slightly variable throughout growth; selenizone details unknown; collabral lines moderately widely spaced, tendency to be foliaceous.

Dimensions (in mm):

| | L | Wh |
|--------|-------|----|
| P12844 | 13.7 | 5 |
| P12845 | 9 · 1 | 4 |
| P41828 | 12.1 | 5 |

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Holotype, P12844. Paratype, P12845.

Type Locality: Chapman designated the holotype as the specimen from Killara and the paratype as the specimen from Loyola. In his plate explanation (p. 101) this situation is reversed with the Loyola specimen being designated as the holotype. The specimen from Loyola is both an external mould and internal mould whereas the specimen from Killara is only an external mould. In view of this, the specimen from Loyola is accepted as the holotype.

Material: Holotype, paratype and 12 other specimens.

Discussion: Comparison between this species and the type species is limited by the mode of preservation of the former. The larger T. curvilineatus appears to have a deeper sinus and more regular growth lines than T. centrifugalis. The growth lines of T. centrifugalis appear to be more foliaceous than those of the type species. Otherwise, little comparison can be made between the two species.

T. centrifugalis differs from Tropidodiscus sp. A. described by Talent (1963) from the Kilgower Member, Tabberabbera, in the coarser, more widely spaced nature of its collabral lines.

Genus Temnodiscus Koken, 1896

Type Species: Temnodiscus lamellifer (Lindström), 1884; Middle Silurian; Visby, Gotland, Sweden.

? Temnodiscus pharetroides Chapman

(Plate 3, figure 1)

1916 Temnodiscus pharetroides Chapman, p. 78, pl. 2, figs. 4-5, pl. 6, figs. 50-51.

Description: Small planispiral form with a distinctive dorsal crest; whorl profile from angular dorsal crest moderately curved to edge of umbilici where it is rounded more strongly into the umbilici aperture flared, sub-ovoidal in shape; final whorl expanded, whorls few in number; other details unknown because of poor preservation.

Dimensions:

P12835 L Ht Wt 7·1 6·6 4·2

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Holotype, P12835.

Type Locality: Loyola.

Material: Holotype.

Discussion: The holotype is an internal mould which shows clearly a dorsal crest; otherwise there is little diagnostic information. The assignment by Chapman of this single specimen to the genus Temnodiscus on such inadequate material is unwarranted. Furthermore, there is no evidence on the holotype of a sculpture of concentric rugae as claimed by Chapman. Until more specimens can provide further information, the specimen is left tentatively in this genus. Talent (1963) described two species of Temnodiscus from the similarly aged mudstones of the Kilgower Member in the Tabberabbera area of eastern Victoria.

Family SINUITIDAE Dall (in Zittel-Eastman, 1913)

Subfamily TREMANOTINAE Peel, 1972 Genus Tremanotus Hall, 1865

(=Boiotremus Horny, 1962)

Type Species: Tremanotus alpheus Hall, 1865; Middle Silurian; Bridgeport, Illinois, U.S.A.

Tremanotus cyclocostatus Talent and Philip, 1956

(Plate 7, figures 9, 13)

1916 Tremanotus pritchardi Cresswell; Chapman, p. 79 (in part).

1956 Tremanotus cyclocostatus Talent and Philip

1956 Tremanotus cyclocostatus Talent and Philip, p. 61, pl. 6, figs. 11 & 15, pl. 7, figs. 16-17, text fig. 4.

Diagnosis: Small form of genus with fine growth lines and sculptural elements which can be quite sinuous; few foliaceous growth rugae, irregularly developed.

Description: Medium, widely umbilicate, planispiral form with a widely expanded aperture in the final growth stage; whorl profile gently arched dorsally, more strongly curved on the sides when turning into the wide, deep, umbilici: concave on the inner or columellar surface: aperture in final growth stage sub-oval, greatly expanded; neither a sinus nor tremata developed on the dorsal surface of the expanded region; the outer lip before the final growth stage strongly deflected posteriorly from the columellar lip and culminates in a small slit situated medially on the dorsal crest of the outer surface; along the selenizone formed by the slit numerous evenly spaced, sub-rectangular tremata are developed; the number of open tremata unknown; between tremata the growth lines directed posteriorly towards the earlier tremata; prominent foliaceous rugae are rarely developed; growth lines typically very fine and closely spaced; sculpture composed of at least two orders of fine spiral elements; sculpture irregularly spaced and frequently quite sinuous; growth lines and sculpture form a reticulate pattern over whorl surface; sutures deep.

Dimensions:

M.U.G.D. 2279 24* 12* — — 11·5 5
M.U.G.D. 2167 19* — — — 11* —
P913 47* — — — 17* 5+

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2279. Paratype, M.U.G.D. 2167. Hypotype, M.U.G.D. 5031.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, lower quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: Holotype and counterpart, one paratype, one hypotype and one other specimen. Discussion: Comparison between this species and the type species is limited by the nature of preservation of the American species. However, T. cyclocostatus is considerably smaller and has very much finer growth lines and sculptural elements. It has fewer foliaceous

growth rugae and those present are irregularly developed. The finer spiral sculpture is more numerous and irregular, often becoming quite sinuous.

T. cyclocostatus differs in a number of ways from T. pritchardi Cresswell, the only other species described from Victoria (Tassell, 1976). It is considerably smaller in size and has much finer growth lines and sculptural elements. The spiral sculpture of T. cyclocostatus is not as frequent and becomes quite sinuous in places. The growth rugae are less frequently developed and those present are not as prominent as in T. pritchardi. During the growth stages prior to the development of the flared aperture the outer lip of T. cyclocostatus is deflected more strongly posteriorly. Whereas the inner lip of T. pritchardi is straight, that of T. cyclocostatus is distinctly convex inwards.

Chapman (1916), when discussing *T. pritchardi* from the Lilydale Limestone, noted that a specimen from the Thomson River had larger tremata and a spiral sculpture that was more sinuous. However, he considered it to be *T. pritchardi*. Re-examination of this specimen P913 reveals that it is quite clearly distinguishable from *T. pritchardi* and identical with *T. cyclocostatus*.

Family PLATYCERATIDAE Hall, 1859
Genus Platyceras (Platycetoma), Conrad.
Subgenus Platyceras (Platycetoma), Conrad.

Subgenus Platyceras (Platyostoma) Conrad, 1842

Type Species: Platyostoma ventricosum Conrad, 1842; Lower Devonian; near Saugerties, New York, U.S.A.

Discussion: Talent and Philip (1956, p. 59) erected a new genus Ostlerina, distinguished by being naticiform, narrowly umbilicate, without a sinus, with sculpture composed only of growth lines and a simple nucleus. The type species and only member of the genus was Ostlerina delicata Talent and Philip from both the quarries at Marble Creek. Subsequently Knight et al. (1960, p. 1240) synonymized this genus with the subgenus P. (Platyostoma). The assignment of the form from Marble Creek to Platyostoma required the expansion of the subgeneric concept to include minutely umbilicate forms.

Platyceras (Platyostoma) incisum Chapman, 1916

(Plate 7, figures 6, 14)

1916 Diaphorostoma incisum Chapman, p. 99, pl. 5, fig. 46, pl. 6, fig. 59.

1956 Ostlerina delicata Talent and Philip, p. 59, pl. 6, figs. 1-4, text figs. 2-3.

Diagnosis: Medium, explanate, minutely umbilicate form of the subgenus.

Description: Medium, explanate, naticiform, minutely umbilicate gastropod with several whorls; last whorl greatly expanded; spire short, low; whorl profile moderately to gently arched with a tendency to become flatter on the last whorl; sutures adpressed; columellar lip long, thin and arcuate; no apparent parietal inductura; outer lip thin, prosocyrt and slightly irregular; subcircular aperture large and very shallow; growth lines irregular, becoming coarser with age; no other sculpture present.

Dimensions:

| 71.000 | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|---------------|------|------|----|
| P1083 | | | 3 |
| M.U.G.D. 2164 | 15.5 | 24.8 | 3 |
| M.U.G.D. 2165 | 13.8 | 22.6 | 3 |
| M.U.G.D. 2178 | | | 3 |

Location of Types:

(i) D. incisum. National Museum of Victoria. Holotype, P1083. Previously 91F, Geological Survey of Victoria Collection.

(ii) O. delicata. Mebourne University Geology Department. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2164. Paratypes, M.U.G.D. 2165 and 2178.

Type Locality:

(i) D. incisum, Toongabbie Limestone, northern outcrop (or lower quarry), Marble Creek.

(ii) O. delicata, Toongabbie Limestone, upper quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: Holotype, 3 hypotypes and 13 other specimens.

Discussion: The type locality for D. incisum is the northern outcrop of limestone, the site of the lower quarry of Talent and Philip (1956, text fig. 1). O. delicata is moderately common at this site, more so than at the upper quarry where it is 'relatively rare' (Talent and Philip, 1956). Comparison of all the material from both quarries indicates that O. delicata is a junior synonym of P. (P.) incisum.

P. (P.) incisum differs from the type species

most importantly in possessing a minute umbilicus. It is also more explanate, has a lower spire, more rapidly expanded whorls and a very much larger aperture. The type species has an obviously developed parietal inductura, a structure wanting on *P.* (*P.*) incisum.

Platyceras (Platyostoma) triangulare Talent and Philip, 1956 (Plate 7, figure 4)

1956 Platyostoma triangularis Talent and Philip, p. 64, pl. 4, figs. 5-6.

Diagnosis: Small, naticiform gastropod with moderately irregular aperture and whorl profile

which becomes angular with growth.

Description: Small, naticiform gastropod with rapidly expanding whorls; large last whorl; low spire; whorl profile changes with growth, initially well rounded from the upper suture to the base with the periphery at mid-whorl; with growth whorl profile becomes more angular, gently rounded to nearly flat from upper suture to angular shoulder then nearly flat outer whorl surface to sub-angular basal periphery; base nearly flat; umbilicus lacking; sutures change from canaliculate to impressed with growth; outer lip moderately thick, from the upper suture it passes backwards to the shoulder, on the outer whorl surface it is gently opistocyrt, forming a shallow wide sinus, from the basal periphery it passes backwards across the base; inner lip not known; aperture large, irregular; sculpture of growth lines only.

Dimensions:

M.U.G.D. 2175 Ht Wt Wh 7.6 11.5 1

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2175.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, lower quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: Holotype.

Discussion: P. (P.) triangulare differs substantially from P. (P.) incisum, the other species of the subgenus occurring at Marble Creek. Besides being much smaller than P. (P.) incisum, it is characterized by a whorl profile which becomes progressively more angular. It lacks an umbilicus and is more naticiform in shape than the explanate P. (P.) incisum. The

latter's growth lines are also considerably finer.

Comparison of P. (P.) triangulare with the type species is limited by the lack of material from Marble Creek. It is smaller and more irregular. The whorl profile becomes progressively more angular with growth and the outer lip is more irregular.

Subgenus Platyceras (Platyceras) Conrad, 1840 Type Species: Pileopsis vetusta J. de C. Sowerby, 1829; Lower Carboniferous; Queens

County, Ireland.

Platyceras (Platyceras) decorum Talent and Philip, 1956

1956 Platyceras decorum Talent and Philip, p. 64, pl. 7, fig. 21.

Diagnosis: Small horn-shaped form of subgenus with a sinuous to near crenulated small sub-circular aperture.

Description: Small, irregular coiled, horn-shaped gastropod with about two whorls; nucleus and initial whorl coiled discoidally and in contact; last whorl rapidly expanding and disjunct; whorl profile sub-rounded with sub-angular ridges running from apex to aperture, variably developed; whorl section generally sub-circular; aperture sinuous, irregular and variable; sculpture composed only of growth lines, concave toward the aperture on the ridges and convex toward the aperture between the ridges.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|----------------|-----|-----|----|
| M.U.G.D. 2173a | 4.3 | 7.6 | 2 |
| M.U.G.D. 2174 | 3.5 | 7.2 | _ |

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2173a and b. Paratype, M.U.G.D. 2174.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, lower quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: Holotype and paratype.

Discussion: Besides being much smaller than the type species, P. (P.) decorum does not possess the typical capuliform shape because of its slower whorl expansion rate. Accordingly, the aperture of P. (P.) decorum is much smaller than that of the type species. The Marble Creek form also possesses distinct longitudinal ridges which are completely absent on the type species. The aperture of P. (P.)

decorum is much more sinuous and irregular than that of P. (P.) vetustum.

The distinctive sinuous, almost crenulated aperture of P. (P). decorum is also a feature of the species of the subgenus Platyceras (Orthonychia) occurring at Marble Creek. These are all substantially larger than P. (P). decorum and do not possess its initial coiling. However, the great variability of this genus and in cases only arbitrary distinctions between subgenera means that P. (P). decorum and P. (O) marblecreekense may in fact be the same species.

Platyceras (Platyceras) minutum Chapman, 1916

(Plate 7, figure 8)

1916 Platyceras minutum Chapman, p. 97, pl. 5, fig. 41, pl. 6, figs. 57-58.

Diagnosis: Small, regularly coiled, horn-shaped

form with regular growth lines.

Description: Small, horn-shaped gastropod of 2-3 whorls; shell rapidly expanding; body whorl disjunct; whorl section sub-ovoid; from sutures whorl profile gently rounded to nearly flat, becoming well-rounded at the mid-whorl periphery; aperture ovoidal; outer lip from both sutures strongly prosocyrt to the mid-whorl periphery; a broad open sinus formed at the mid-whorl; inner lip strongly curved; both lips thin; sculpture composed of prominent strong costae developed reasonably regularly; numerous finer growth lines between the costae.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|--------|-----|-----|----|
| P12853 | _ | 4.8 | 3 |
| P41713 | _ | 5.3 | 3 |
| P41714 | _ | 5.2 | 3 |
| P41716 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 2 |

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Holotype, P12853. Paratype, P12854. Hypotype, P41713, A. W. Cresswell Collection. Type Locality: Deep Creek.

Material: Holotype, hypotype and three other specimens.

Discussion: The small number of specimens limits the comparisons that can be made between this species and P. (P.) vetustum.

P. (P.) minutum is smaller and is coiled more regularly than the capuliform type species. The growth lines of P. (P.) vetustum are much more irregular than those of P. (P.) minutum.

P. (P.) minutum differs considerably from P. (P.) decorum occurring at Marble Creek. It is very much smaller and lacks the distinctive ridges of the latter form. Nor does it possess the distinctive irregular crenulated aperture of P. (P.) decorum. It also expands more rapidly and more regularly than the Marble Creek form.

The species from Deep Creek is very similar to the initial growth stages of the Devonian P. (Platyceras) sp. from Canada, figured by Bowsher (1955, pl. 2, fig. 1) attached to the crinoid Arthroacantha carpenteri Hinde. Both are of similar size and possess the same distinctive simple sculpture and apertural shape. However, with growth the Canadian form develops the irregular and variable growth lines that are typical of the subgenus.

Chapman (1916) considered that this species resembled the initial growth stages of a variety of *P. cornutum* (Hisinger). As figured by Hisin ger (1828, pl. 6, fig. 6), (1837, pl. 12, fig. 11), and Lindström (1884, pl. 2, figs. 29-51, pl. 3, figs. 6-9, 19-26) no specimen is comparable with the Deep Creek form. None of the specimens figured by these authors possesses such pronounced and regular growth lines as does *P.* (*P.*) minutum or the Canadian form. Nor in general do the figured specimens cited by Chapman lack spiral sculpture as does *P.* (*P.*) minutum.

Platyceras (Platyceras) mansfieldense sp. nov. (Plate 7, figure 11)

1916 Platyceras cornutum (Hisinger); Chapman, p. 97, pl. 5, fig. 42.

Diagnosis: Large capuliform gastropod lacking sculpture except for fine irregular foliaceous growth lines and irregular rugae.

Description: Medium to large, irregularly capuliform gastropod of one or two whorls, first whorl coiled discoidally and in contact; last whorl rapidly expanding and disjunct; whorl profile sub-rounded; last whorl section sub-ovate; aperture sinuous, irregular and variable;

lips of variable thickness; sculpture lacking except for exceedingly fine irregular foliaceous growth lines and irregular rugae.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|--------|-----|-----|----|
| P12855 | 24* | 32* | 1+ |
| P40344 | 37* | 37* | 1+ |

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Holotype, P12855.

Type Locality: Loyola Limestone, Loyola. *Material:* Holotype and two other specimens.

Discussion: Chapman (1916) considered that the Loyola species was the same as the intermediate, neritoid, depressed spire form of the Silurian P. (P.) cornutum (Hisinger) from Gotland, Sweden.

Originally figured by Hisinger (1828, pl. 6, fig. 6) as *Turbinites* sp., this species is totally different from the Loyola form. Similarly, the figure of *Pileopsis cornuta* Hisinger (1837, pl. 12, fig. 11) differs significantly from the Loyola form. Lindström (1884) redescribed *Platyceras cornutum* (Hisinger) and synonymized with it a great range of forms of varying ages from Europe. None of the forms which he figured are comparable in terms of both general shape and sculpture with the Loyola species.

Although the subgenera and species of this genus exhibit considerable morphological variation and are known to be intergrading, it is considered that the Loyola form is quite distinct from the Silurian *P. cornutum* occurring in Europe.

Platyceras (Platyceras) sp. A.

Description: Medium, irregularly capuliform gastropod with rapidly expanding whorls; large last whorl; low spired; whorl profile changes with growth; from sutures whorl profile gently rounded at the mid-whorl periphery; with growth mid-whorl periphery weakens considerably; whorl section changes from being sub-ovoidal to sub-circular with growth; aperture sinuous, slightly irregular; sculpture consists of fine slightly irregular foliaceous growth lines; tendency for occasional growth rugae to develop later.

Dimensions:

P44067 Ht Wt Wh 20·4 25·5 1+

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Mentioned specimen, P44067.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, Marble Creek.

Discussion: This species is readily distinguishable from the other species of the subgenus P. (Platyceras) found at any of the limestone deposits discussed here. It is significantly larger than either P. (P.) decorum or P. (P.) minutum although both have a comparable number of whorls. Both these smaller forms appear to have growth sequences which differ from this species. The only other member of the subgenus, P. (P.) mansfieldense, is distinguishable by its considerably larger size, fewer whorls and different style of growth.

Again the lack of specimens prevents a satisfactory taxonomic assignment of the form or comparison with *P*. (*P*.) vetustum. Certainly the type species has a much more regular pattern of growth, more rapid whorl expansion and more explanate aperture than this species from Marble Creek.

Subgenus Platyceras (Visitator) Perner, 1911

Type Species: Visitator extraneus Perner, 1911; Silurian; Dvorce, Bohemia.

Discussion: The genus Cowwarrella was erected by Talent and Philip (1956) and distinguished by having a near rectangular whorl section, simple nucleus, absence of sculpture except growth lines, and an outer lip with an anteriorly directed tongue-like projection. Cowwarrella cylindrica Talent and Philip, the type species and only member of the genus, was from the Toongabbie Limestone, lower quarry, Marble Creek.

Knight et al. (1960, p. I240) subsequently synonymized this genus with the subgenus P. (Visitator).

Platyceras (Visitator) cylindricum (Talent and Philip), 1956

(Plate 7, figure 2)

1956 Cowwarrella cylindrica Talent and Philip, p. 61, pl. 4, figs. 12-14.

Diagnosis: Small, umbilicate, subcylindrical gastropod with few whorls, low to depressed spire, canaliculate sutures and narrow clongate aperture.

Description: Small, umbilicate, subcylindrical gastropod with few whorls, short to depressed spire and subcylindrical last whorl; sutures deep, canaliculate; whorl profile nearly flat from upper suture to slightly obtuse shoulder, outer whorl surface flat to sub-angular basal margin, base rounded to nearly flat and near perpendicular to outer whorl surface; aperture narrow, clongate; columellar lip long, thin; parietal lip short and of the same thickness as columellar lip; moderately thin outer lip passes slightly forwards from the upper suture to the shoulder, on the outer surface it arches further forwards to mid-whorl so forming a distinct deep sinus near the upper suture; below midwhorl the lip passes backwards to just above the basal margin, from this point continues backwards much more strongly before turning forwards midway across the base and continuing into the umbilicus; the second lower sinus so formed is smaller but proportionally deeper than the upper sinus; growth lines of varying size are well developed; sculpture possibly variably present, composed of very widely spaced spiral ridges on the outer whorl surface.

Dimensions:

Ht Wt Hap Wap Wh M.U.G.D. 2169 12.9 10.8 3+2.9 M.U.G.D. 2280 9.2 10.1 3 10.6 M.U.G.D. 2281 6.4 1.9

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2169. Paratypes, M.U.G.D. 2280-2281.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, lower quarry, Marble Creek.

Distribution: Toongabbie Limestone and Deep Creek Limestone.

Material: Holotype, 2 paratypes, and 4 other specimens.

Discussion: P. (V.) cylindricum differs significantly from the type species. The form from Marble Creek is small and has a distinctive sub-cylindrical shape, whereas the type species is large and naticiform. Accordingly, the aper-

ture of *P*. (*V*.) cylindricum is narrow and elongate while that of *P*. (*V*.) extraneum is sub-ovoidal. Knight (1941) considered the type species to be 'seemingly anomphalous'. *P*. (*V*.) cylindricum has an umbilicus. The presence of this species at Deep Creek has not been previously reported.

Subgenus *Platyceras* (*Orthonychia*) Hall, 1843 *Type Species: Platyceras* (*Orthonychia*) *subrectum* Hall, 1859; Devonian; near Williamsville, Erie County, New York, U.S.A.

Platyceras (Orthonychia) marblecreekense

Talent and Philip, 1956

(Plate 7, figures 10, 12)

1956 Orthonychia marblecreekensis Talent and Philip, p. 65, pl. 7, fig. 22.

1956 Platyceras trirotundolobatum Talent and Philip, p. 64, pl. 7, figs. 26-27.

1956 Orthonychia pentalvea Talent and Philip, p. 65, pl. 7, figs. 28-29.

Diagnosis: Medium, variable horn-shaped form with up to 5 variably developed longitudinal ridges running from the apex to aperture.

Description: Medium, horn-shaped, uncoiled gastropod with up to 5 variable longitudinal ridges running from apex to aperture; shape irregular; initial region of the shell curved inwards; shell rapidly expanding; whorl section irregularly polygonal to sub-ovoidal; apertural margin irregular with a tendency to have a crenulated appearance; lips thin; sculpture absent except for longitudinal ridges and growth lines; growth lines variable, ranging from moderately regular fine lines which are convex towards the aperture between the longitudinal ridges and concave towards the aperture on the ridges, to coarse growth rugae which although irregular are not sigmoidal or crenulated.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Hap | Wap | Wh |
|---------------|------|-------|------|------|----|
| M.U.G.D. 2171 | 14.2 | 22.1 | | 16.9 | 1 |
| M.U.G.D. 2168 | 20.1 | 29.0* | _ | _ | 1 |
| M.U.G.D. 2170 | 18.5 | 30.7 | 18.5 | 17.7 | î |

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department.

(i) Orthonychia marblecreekensis. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2171.

- (ii) Platyceras trirotundolobatum. Holotype, M.U.G.D. 2168.
- (iii) Orthonychia pentalvea. Holotype, M.U. G.D. 2170.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, lower quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: Holotype and 2 hypotypes.

Discussion: As the holotype of P. trirotundo-lobatum lacks the apical region of its shell, a critical feature in the present classification of subgenera of the genus Platyceras, the former name has not been selected as the senior synonym. The holotype of O. marblecreekensis, which name has page priority over O. pentalvea, is complete, and the former is accepted as the name for this taxon.

The three species of the two subgenera synonymized here are all uncommon, being represented by only one specimen each. All come from the same locality. The known mode of life of members of these subgenera and the influence such a life has upon individual shell morphology does not warrant the erection of three separate taxa for three individuals from the same locality.

The assignment of one form to the subgenus *Platyceras* is unjustified in view of its close similarity to the species of *Orthonychia* from the same locality and the absence of the apical region of the shell, the critical region in distinguishing between these two subgenera. As preserved there is no suggestion that the apical region of this shell was coiled.

All the specimens in this collection are considered to belong to a single species. This species is characterized by its medium size, uncoiled horn shape and the presence of about 5 variably developed longitudinal ridges. Otherwise there is considerable variation, particularly in the strength of the longitudinal ridges and the nature of the sculpture. These differences are distinguished by the establishment of 3 variants within the species.

(i) Variant 1 (as represented by the holotype, M.U.G.D. 2171).

This variant possesses the weakest development of the longitudinal ridges. In some instances these ridges are not continuous from the apex to the aperture. The ridges tend to be more strongly developed in the apertural region. The sculpture is exceedingly variable. Initially fine crenulated growth lines are present. This type of growth line is replaced rapidly by coarse growth rugae which are roughly straight rather than crenulated.

(ii) Variant 2 (as represented by hypotype M.U.G.D. 2170).

This more elongate variant is distinguished by a decidedly more curved but totally disjunct apical region. It also possesses fine, moderately uniform, growth lines which are typically crenulated. The longitudinal ribs are continuous from the apical region to the aperture.

(iii) Variant 3 (as represented by hypotype M.U.G.D. 2168).

This variant is distinguished by the height of the longitudinal ribs, which extend from the apical region to the aperture. The growth lines are typically crenulated.

Platycera (Orthonychia) sp. A.

(Plate 7, figure 7)

Description: Medium, irregularly capuliform gastropod with one and a half whorls; disjunct whorls expand rapidly; whorl profile probably sub-rounded; last whorl section sub-circular; sculpture where preserved composed of moderately irregular growth lines; aperture slightly irregular.

Dimensions:

Ht Wt Wh P1082 14·5 24·0* 1+

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Figured specimen, P1082 ex G.S.V. Collection, 91F.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, Marble Creek.

Material: Figured specimen on which the external sculpture is poorly preserved.

Discussion: This specimen provides an example of the often arbitrary distinction between the subgenera P. (Platyceras) and P. (Orthonychia). Although having 1½ coils it is completely disjunct. The availability of more specimens may enable its taxonomic status to be determined satisfactorily. At present it is placed in the subgenus Orthonychia because of its disjunct

nature, minimal coiling and its great similarity with P. (O.) marblecreekense. This latter uncoiled species is characterized by the presence of variably developed longitudinal ridges and crenulated margin. Knight et al. (1960) considered that the apertural irregularities of the genus Platyceras were primarily a reflection of the host crinoid's characters rather than an inherent characteristic of the gastropod. Thus the apparent absence of a crenulate margin in P. (Orthonychia) sp. A. is not considered to be a significant taxonomic distinction between it and P. (O.) marblecreekense. At present these two species are differentiated on the basis of their coiling, general shape and the degree of development of the longitudinal ridges. However, further specimens may indicate that P. (O.) sp. A. is in fact another variant of P. (O.) marblecreekense.

P. (Orthonychia) sp. A. is similar to P. (P.) mansfieldense in general appearance and the nature of the growth lines. It differs in being much smaller, disjunct and having fewer whorls.

Subgenus Platyceras (Praenatica) Perner, 1903 Type Species: Strophostylus gregarius provea Perner, 1903; Lower Devonian; Lockov, Bohemia.

Platyceras? (Praenatica) sp. A.

Description: Large explanate naticiform to auriform gastropod; body whorl greatly expanded; spire very low; sutures shallow; whorl profile changes with growth, becoming progressively more gently rounded; whorl periphery in lower half of whorl, initially strongly rounded, becomes less pronounced and more gently rounded with growth; inner lip and umbilical region unknown; aperture large; outer lip moderately thin and irregular; from the upper suture the outer lip strongly prosocyrt; sculpture composed only of foliaceous growth lines; coarse growth lines near apex.

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Mentioned specimen, P40348. Rev. R. Thomas Collection.

Type Locality: Loyola Limestone, Loyola.

Material: One crushed specimen.

Discussion: The lack of material limits com-

parison with the type species. Externally both species are very similar, although the Loyola species is slightly larger and has one more whorl. The absence of internal details precludes definite subgeneric placement.

Platyceras subgen. et sp. indet.

1956 Orthonychia sp. Talent and Philip, p. 66. Description: Small explanate gastropod with gently rounded whorl profile; apical region missing; sculpture composed of collabral lines only preserved in the remaining 'apical' region; outer lip thin; apertural margin apparently regular.

Dimensions:

M.U.G.D. 2182a 11·0 Wt Hap Wap Wh 9·7* 11·0 8·7 1

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Mentioned specimen, M.U. G.D. 2182.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, upper quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: One specimen.

Discussion: Absence of the apical region precludes subgeneric determination. Although broken it is apparent that the apical region narrows rapidly and curves, suggesting that the shell may have been coiled. The regularity of the few growth lines and the segment of the aperture preserved distinguishes it from all members of the subgenus P. (Orthonychia) from Marble Creek.

? Platyceras subgen. et sp. indet.

1956 Platyceras sp. Talent and Philip, p. 65.

Description: Small irregularly capuliform platyceratid gastropod; rapidly expanding last whorl.

Dimensions:

M.U.G.D. 2181 Ht Wt Hap Wap Wh 7.7 10.4 7.7 — 1

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Mentioned specimen, M.U. G.D. 2181.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, upper quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: One specimen.

Discussion: The single specimen is poorly pre-

served, lacking both its nucleus and sculpture. If the initial whorls were in contact, this specimen would possess a distinctly capuliform shape which would distinguish it from P. (P.) decorum from Marble Creek, the only species of approximately similar size.

Family ORIOSTOMATIDAE Wenz, 1938

Genus Oriostoma Munier-Chalmas, 1876

Type Species: Oriostoma barrandei Munier-Chalmas, 1876; Lower Devonian; Bois Roux quarry at Gahard, near Rennes, France.

Oriostoma n. sp.

(Plate 7, figure 3)

Description: Small, low spired, discoidal gastropod with few whorls; whorls increasing in size rapidly; body whorl large; whorl profile well rounded, from upper suture arched upwards to rounded shoulder, then arched gently to the round keel which surrounds the moderately wide umbilicus, then curved more tightly into the umbilieus; periphery at or below midwhorl; inner and outer lip thin; outer lip weakly prosoeline, retroussé at each of the major spiral sculptural elements; sculpture consists of two orders of numerous strong spiral elements; collabral growth lines range from moderately fine to foliaeeous and are retroussé at the intersection with each of the major spiral elements.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|--------|----|------|----|
| P40319 | | 5.4 | 3 |
| P41727 | | 11.6 | |

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Figured specimen P41728, A. W. Cresswell Collection.

Locality: P40319, Middle Crossing, Deep Creek. P41727 and P41728, Deep Creek.

Material: Figured specimen and two other specimens.

Discussion: This species differs from O. barrandei principally in possessing many more elements of spiral sculpture which are also more strongly developed. In this respect alone it resembles the sculpture of Beraunia bifrons (Perner). However, it is considerably smaller

than this species which is not a large member of the genus *Beraunia*. Because the spiral elements are more closely spaced in the form from Deep Creek, the posterior deflection of the collabral growth lines at their intersection with the spiral elements is markedly less than that occurring in the type species.

The Deep Creek form also differs from the type species in being smaller and having a more rounded whorl profile. O. rotundimuratus Tassell from the Lilydale Limestone is very similar to the Deep Creek form. However, the Lilydale species is slightly more turbinate and has fewer, more widely spaced and less strongly developed spiral sculptural elements.

Talent (1963) described and figured *Oriostoma* sp. from his locality 35 in the Kilgower Member of the Tabberabbera Formation. The two specimens he found were poorly preserved and considerably smaller than the form from Deep Creek. Both species appear to have a comparable number of spiral elements. However, *Oriostoma* sp. from the Kilgower Member lacks growth lines, so further comparison is limited.

Until more complete material is available from Deep Creek I will not name this species.

Family MURCHISONIIDAE Koken, 1896

Genus Michelia Roemer, 1852

Type Species: Michelia cylindrica Roemer, 1852; Devonian; Bockswiese, near Clausthal, Germany.

Michelia sp.

- 1907 Niso (Vetotuba) brazieri Chapman non Etheridge, pp. 73 and 79.
- 1913 Vetotuba brazieri Etheridge; Chapman, p. 227 (in part).
- 1916 Coelocaulus brazieri (Etheridge); Chapman, p. 86 (in part).
- 1956 Coelocaulus sp. Talent and Philip, p. 62, pl. 7, fig. 8.

Description: Small to medium, narrowly umbilicate, cyrtoconoid gastropod; numerous whorls with profile gently convex between shallow impressed sutures; periphery about mid-whorl; apertural region unknown; pseudoselenizone present on lower half of whorl; sculpture unknown.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|---------------|------|------|----|
| M.U.G.D. 2172 | 25.8 | 8.6 | 8+ |
| M.U.G.D. 2177 | 12.8 | 4.8 | 5 |
| P38510 | 29* | 10.0 | 9 |

Location of Types: Melbourne University Geology Department. Figured specimen, M.U.G.D. 2172.

Type Locality: Toongabbie Limestone, upper quarry, Marble Creek.

Material: Figured specimen and 2 other specimens. All material is poorly preserved.

Discussion: Comparison of this material with the two better known species M. brazieri (Etheridge) from Lilydale and M. darwini (de Koninck) from Taemas is difficult because of its very poor preservation. The specimens from Marble Creek are considerably smaller than either of the other two species.

Chapman (1907) noted the presence of Niso (Vetotuba) brazieri at Marble Creek. This specimen (P38510) is very poorly preserved. The apertural region is not preserved nor is the columella visible. There is a suggestion of a pseudoselenizone on the lower half of the last whorl. The disconcerting feature about this specimen is the rather more rapid expansion of whorl diameter compared to whorl height than is typical of either the other two specimens from Marble Creek or the other two species. Assignment of this specimen to this genus is at best tentative.

Family PSEUDOPHORIDAE S.A. Miller, 1889

Genus Scalaetrochus Etheridge, 1890

Type Species: Trochus (Scalaetrochus) lindstroemi Etheridge, 1890; Lower Devonian; Lilydale Limestone quarry, Lilydale, Victoria.

Scalaetrochus lindstroemi Etheridge, 1890

Description: Large trochiform gastropod with mildly concave base; irregular sutures flush to slightly protruding; whorl profile gently convex; periphery angular forming frill; peripheral region thickened by callus deposit; thickened outer lip moderately prosocline from upper suture to the basal periphery, continues obliquely across the base; umbilical region unknown;

collabral growth lines, fine to slightly foliaceous on the outer whorl surface; collabral lines on the base fine.

Dimensions:

Ht Wt Wh P40349 28* 34 6

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Mentioned specimen, P40349. G. Sweet Collection.

Type Locality: Lilydale Limestone, Lilydale.

Distribution: Lilydale Limestone and Loyola Limestonc.

Material: Mentioned specimen.

Discussion: Although only one specimen has been found at Loyola, it is sufficiently well preserved for it to be assigned to this species. Its presence there extends the known occurrence of this species. Chapman (1907, p. 73) mentioned the presence of a fragment of Trochus (Scalaetrochus) sp. at Marble Creek; as yet this specimen has not been relocated and his identification confirmed.

Turbiniform gastropod gen. et sp. indet.

Description: Small turbiniform gastropod of at least 3 whorls; last whorl slightly expanded; whorl profile gently arched between sutures, becoming more strongly arched onto the base; base arched; umbilicus probably present; sutures shallow, impressed; inner lip unknown; outerlip moderately thin, other details of outer lip unknown; aperture probably ovoidal.

Dimensions:

| | Ht | Wt | Wh |
|--------|------|-----|----|
| P41729 | 5.4* | 5.2 | 3+ |

Location of Types: National Museum of Victoria. Mentioned specimen, P41729. A. W. Cresswell Collection.

Type Locality: Deep Creek.

Material: Mentioned specimen.

Discussion: The single specimen does not show growth lines on the small fragments of the outer shell present. Thus assignment to a genus is impossible. However, its mode of coiling distinguishes it from all the other gastropods discussed.

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Explanation of Plate

PLATE 7

- Figure 1—? Temnodiscus pharetroides Chapman, P12835, holotype, X1.
- Figure 2—Platyceras (Visitator) cylindricum (Talent and Philip), M.U.G.D. 2169, holotype, X2. Apical view.
- Figure 3—Oriostoma n. sp., P41728, figured specimen, X1½. Apical view.
- Figure 4—Platyceras (Platyostoma) triangulare
 Talent and Philip, M.U.G.D. 2175,
 holotype, X1½. Apical view.

- Figure 5—Tropidodiscus centrifugalis (Chapman), P12844, holotype, X1½ approx.
- Figure 6—Platyceras (Platyostoma) incisum Chapman, M.U.G.D. 2164, hypotype, X1½. Apical view.
- Figure 7—Platyceras (Orthonychia) sp. A., P1082, figured specimen, X2 approx.
- Figure 8—Platyceras (Platyceras) minutum Chapman, P41713, hypotype, X3.
- Figure 9—Tremanotus cyclocostatus Talent and Philip, M.U.G.D. 5031, hypotype, X2 approx.
- Figure 10—Platyceras (Orthonychia) marblecreekense Talent and Philip, M.U.G.D. 2171, holotype, X2 approx.
- Figure 11—Platyceras (Platyceras) mansfieldense sp. nov., P12855, holotype, $X1\frac{1}{2}$ approx.
- Figure 12—Platyceras (Orthonychia) marblecreekense Talent and Philip, M.U.G.D. 2170, hypotype, X1½ approx.
- Figure 13—Tremanotus cyclocostatus Talent and Philip, M.U.G.D. 5031, hypotype, X2 approx.
- Figure 14—Platyceras (Platyostoma) incisum Chapman, P1083, holotype, X1.